

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION**

MID-PACIFIC REGION

**SOUTH-CENTRAL CALIFORNIA AREA OFFICE
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA**

Draft

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Reconstruction of Union Island Salinity Monitoring Station

**Central Valley Project
Sacramento, California**

FONSI-07-07

Recommended by:

Judi Tapia
Natural Resource Specialist
South Central California Area Office

Date: _____

Concurred by:

Valerie Curley
Acting Resource Management Division Chief
South Central California Area Office

Date: _____

Approved by:

Will Shipp
Deputy Area Manager
South Central California Area Office

Date: _____

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In accordance with section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, the South-Central California Area Office of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), has determined that the approval of the restroom retrofit and trail construction project is not a major federal action that would significantly affect the quality of the human environment and an environmental impact statement is not required. This Finding of No Significant Impact is supported by Reclamation's Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) Number EA-07-07, Reconstruction of Union Island Salinity Monitoring Station, and is hereby incorporated by reference.

BACKGROUND

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) proposes to repair the Union Island Salinity Monitoring Station by replacing the entire structure with better quality materials to withstand deterioration.. A private construction team hired by Reclamation would be brought in to demolish the current station and rebuild a new station. The project is located at the intersection of the Middle River and Old River, Union Island Quadrangle, San Joaquin County. The repairs are needed to correct unsafe and dangerous conditions to employees who service and maintain the monitoring tools on and inside the Stations and to protect the telemetry equipment contained within the Stations. Additionally, a functioning station is needed to provide real-time information to Reclamation and DWR so that water quality objectives can be complied with and stored water releases can be optimized.

FINDINGS

Water Resources: The proposed action would not result in significant impacts to water resources. Reclamation and the contractor would conduct the work in a manner to best avoid disturbances to soils or sediment by implementing best management practices. All construction activities will be short in duration, occurring between the months of August through October to avoid impacts to fish. No obstructions for navigation would occur because the construction activities allow room for vessels to pass. There would be no contamination to water supplies as fiberglass does not leach chemicals and the Delta already has a high exposure to fiberglass due to the popularity of boating activities in the Delta. Many of the boats in the Delta are fiberglass.

Biological Resources: There would be little or no affect to Threatened and Endangered Species. The proposed action would be consistent with the current operations of the station and would allow for the collection of data needed to determine appropriate releases from New Melones into the Delta. Construction may have temporary effects to fish species during the pile driving activities. Construction has been scheduled outside of typical migration windows to avoid disturbance of T&E species. Water quality would improve slightly with the removal of the wooden pilings which had the potential to leach arsenic. Installation of the fiberglass pilings will not result in any chemical leachate over the life of the Station.

Cultural Resources: Under the Proposed Action there would be no potential to affect historic properties [36 CFR 800.3(a)(1)]. There are no new facilities being constructed, only the replacement of an already existing structure. The construction will take place in the existing footprint and will occur mostly offshore.

Indian Trust Assets: There are no tribes possessing legal property interests held in trust by the United States in the action area for the Proposed Action. The nearest Indian trust assets to this action are located at the about 51 miles away. This action would have no adverse effect on Indian trust assets.

Socioeconomic Resources: The Proposed Action would not cause or facilitate any environmental or socioeconomic changes over existing conditions in San Joaquin County. No effects to socioeconomic resources are associated with the Proposed Action when compared to the No Action Alternative.

Environmental Justice: This Action would cause no harm to minority or disadvantaged populations with San Joaquin County. These populations/communities are unlikely to be greatly affected by the relatively minor reconstruction of this facility, because there are no anticipated changes in land use, commodities, or practices. No disproportional impacts to economically disadvantaged or minority populations are associated with the Proposed Action when compared to the No Action Alternative.

Cumulative Impacts: The Proposed Action, when added to other past, present, and future actions does not result in additional diversions of water, or significantly impact biological, cultural, recreation or socioeconomic resources. Neither Indian Trust Assets nor disadvantaged or minority populations would be impacted. Water quality would not be degraded as a result of construction activities. Overall there would be no cumulative impacts due to this Proposed Action.